

Franklin Smoke-Free News

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Department of Health and Family Services

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Franklin Health Department Tickets TWO Businesses

The Franklin Health Department recently completed another round of compliance checks. The clerks at two businesses in Franklin sold tobacco to the teens who were working with the Franklin Health Department. Both of these businesses and the clerks received Municipal citations. The clerks who check ID's and do not sell to the minors during the compliance checks are given gift cards.

The teens have parent permission participate in this voluntary activity. A Franklin Health Department employee or an adult designee supervises the teens. The businesses are regularly given information about the program and are encouraged to check ID's and not sell to minors.

The Franklin Health Department conducts compliance checks under a contract with the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). The DHFS program, Wisconsin WINS, includes regular compliance checks, education for tobacco vendors and rewards for the clerks who adhere to the law.



Franklin Youth Coalition Homecoming Activity



The theme for the 2006 Homecoming activity was:
"They take your GOLD to BLACK you out."

The youth were talking about TOBACCO COMPANIES who target kids with their advertising, then keep them hooked with nicotine. The Franklin Youth Coalition members would like teens to know that they are used by the tobacco companies, to take their money, without concern for the deadly consequences of smoking!

American Cancer Society Poll Yields Strong Support for Workplace Ordinances

A poll recently released sends a strong message to municipalities across the state. Wisconsinites like their air served smoke free.

Surveying a population-weighted sample of 500 people, statewide, the American Cancer Society funded poll gauged public sentiment toward a comprehensive smokefree policy covering all workplaces, public places, restaurants and bars. **The poll found more than two-thirds of Wisconsinites (68%) favor these comprehensive smokefree laws while just 29% oppose.**

The support is stronger than the opposition, as well, with more than half (53%) indicated they would "strongly favor" such a law and 21% indicating they'd "strongly oppose." Support for clean indoor air laws stretches across party lines, geographic area and demographic groups. In fact, the only group with a majority in opposition to the law is current smokers (55% opposing, 40% supporting), a sector making up 19% of Wisconsin's voting population.

Respondents also indicated they'd be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported smokefree policy than one who opposed (59% to 26%) and, after hearing arguments from both sides of this issue, weakened their support only slightly (66% support fell to 61% support).

The Mellman Group, a well-respected Washington, D.C. policy research firm, over sampled city of Milwaukee residents in order to arrive at a properly weighted statewide sample of 500 registered voters. The resulting statewide margin of error is $\pm 4.4\%$.

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*A copy of this American Cancer Society report,
researched by the Mellman Group, is attached.*

Tobacco Companies **Guilty as Charged**

The major cigarette companies were found GUILTY in a federal court of being RACKETEERS who have lied – and continue to deceive the American public about the health risks of their products and secondhand smoke. The Department of Justice sued the tobacco companies in 1999 alleging that they had engaged in a decades-long conspiracy.

Judge Gladys Kessler stated, “It is about an industry, and in particular these Defendants, that survives, and profits, from selling a highly addictive product which causes diseases that lead to a staggering number of deaths per year, an immeasurable amount of human suffering and economic loss, and a profound burden on our national health care system. Defendants have known many of these facts for at least 50 years or more. Despite that knowledge, they have consistently, repeatedly, and with enormous skill and sophistication, denied these facts to the public, to the Government, and to the public health community. ...Defendants have marketed and sold their lethal product with zeal, with deception, with a single-minded focus on their financial success, and without regard for the human tragedy or social costs that success exacted.”

The court found that the defendants were aware of the health effects of secondhand smoke as early as 1961. Court documents state, “Despite the fact that Defendants’ own scientists were increasingly persuaded of the strength of the research showing the dangers of [secondhand smoke] to nonsmokers, Defendants mounted a comprehensive, coordinated, international effort to undermine and discredit this research....They conducted a mammoth national and international public relations campaign to criticize and trivialize scientific reports demonstrating the health hazards of [secondhand smoke] to nonsmokers and smokers.”

Many states and local governments have taken action to protect people from the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke. There is no reason to believe the lies of tobacco companies, racketeers, who say that allowing smoking is “good for businesses”. Who are they kidding?

Nicotine in Cigarettes Increases **Significantly Since 1998**

Report by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

“The amount of nicotine in a cigarette has increased steadily over the past six years according to a new report released today by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH).

The study found that regardless of brand, the amount of nicotine that is actually delivered to the smoker’s lungs has increased significantly over the past six years. The data was collected from reports submitted to MDPH from 1998 to 2004 by all tobacco companies that sell cigarettes in the state, as required by Massachusetts General Law. Massachusetts is one of only three states in the country to require tobacco companies to submit this information annually.

“These findings are significant. This is the first release of information on nicotine yield in more than six years nationally. We want health care providers to know that smokers are getting more nicotine than in the past and many need additional help in trying to quit,” Said MDPH Commissioner Paul J. Cote Jr.

The report also found

- Overall, nicotine yields increased ten percent from 1998 – 2004
- As of 2004, 93 percent of all cigarette brands were rated high nicotine
- Marlboro, Newport, and Camel, the three most popular brands chosen by young smokers, all delivered significantly more nicotine.

“Smoking is a powerful addiction. Smokers often make multiple attempts to quit before they can successfully stop smoking. Increased nicotine yield may make it harder to quit,” said DPH Associate Commissioner Sally Fogerty.”

www.mass.gov/dph

Search for “Change in Nicotine Yields”

Your comments and ideas
are always welcome.

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